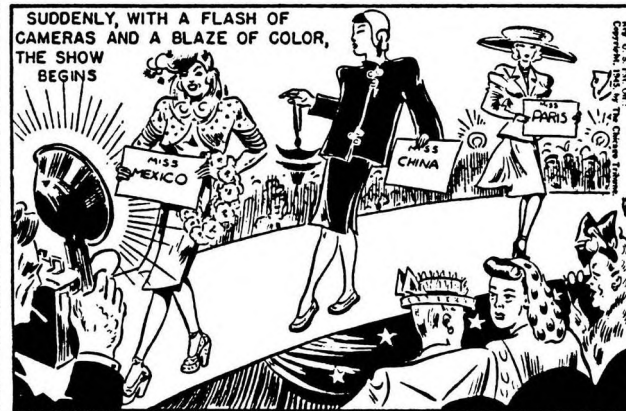
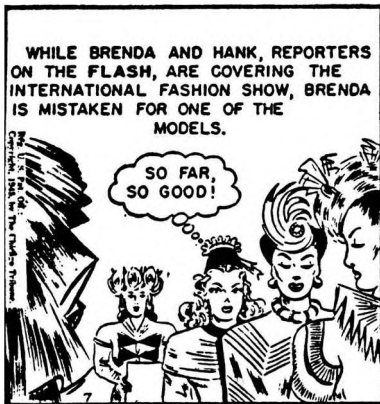








BRENDA STARR REPORTER

Doc Macklick

BRENDA HAS JUST WOWED THE FASHION SHOW BY WEARING CEDRIC MODISTE'S GOWN—UP-SIDE-DOWN.

FIRST, YOU RUIN MY FUCHSIA PILL BOX.... THEN, YOU DO THIS TO MY GOWN! WHAT WAS THE SCARF, IS NOW A TRAIN....



...IT'S TOO MUCH. I CAN'T BEAR ANY MORE.... I THINK I'M GOING TO FAINT



PLEASE, MISTER MODISTE!

I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, BUT I TRIED TO TELL YOU I WAS NOT MISS STANKIE, YOUR MODEL, WHEN YOU DRAGGED ME OUT OF THE PRESS ROOM



Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.
Copyright, 1943, by The Chicago Tribune.

WHAT? SAY THAT AGAIN! YOU'RE NOT MISS STANKIE?



NO, I'M A REPORTER. I CAME HERE TO COVER THE SHOW FOR MY PAPER.



YOU WOULDN'T LISTEN, SO I PRETENDED TO BE YOUR MISS STANKIE, JUST AS A GAG. WE REPORTERS NEVER MISS A CHANCE FOR A STORY, AND....

I THINK I'VE GOT JUST THAT. DOESN'T IT SEEM RATHER MYSTERIOUS THAT MISS STANKIE HASN'T SHOWN UP?



WHY.... YES.

WEARING MY GOWNS IS THE AMBITION OF ANY MODEL.



SO, SHE MUST HAVE A PRETTY GOOD REASON FOR NOT BEING HERE.

BUT WHY DIDN'T SHE NOTIFY ME?



WOULD IT BE TO ANY ONE'S ADVANTAGE IF YOUR GOWNS DIDN'T APPEAR IN THIS SHOW?



WHY.... I.... GOOD HEAVENS! ARE YOU SUGGESTING THERE MIGHT BE SOMETHING UNDERHANDED AFOOT?

...ISN'T IT A FACT THAT THIS SHOW WILL ESTABLISH THE NEW NUMBER ONE DESIGNER IN THE WORLD OF FASHIONS?

I THINK WE'D BETTER TRY TO LOCATE MISS STANKIE AT ONCE!



YES.... YES.... I'LL CALL HER HOTEL









BRENDASTARR REPORTER

By Dale McBrick

UNNOTICED, BRENDA HAS SLIPPED AWAY FROM THE FASHION SHOW, AND HAS BLUFFED HER WAY INTO MISS STANKIE'S APARTMENT, WHERE SHE HAS JUST FOUND THE MISSING MODEL.

GOOD GOSH! NO WONDER SHE DIDN'T SHOW UP AT THE FASHION SHOW!

IT....IT LOOKS LIKE SUICIDE TO ME. I'D BETTER GET MY OLD FRIEND, DETECTIVE TRAVERTS, OVER HERE AT ONCE.

I WOULD HAVE SOME TALL EXPLAINING TO DO IF I WERE FOUND HERE.

GEE! I'D LIKE TO SEE HER FACE....WONDER IF WE REALLY DO LOOK ALIKE!

SUDDENLY—
OH! OH! SOMEONE'S COMING!

BRENDA RUNS TO THE DOOR OF THE BED-ROOM, AND PEEKS OUT INTO THE LIVING ROOM.

Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.
Copyright, 1945, by The Chicago Tribune

I'VE SEEN HER SOME PLACE, BUT I CAN'T REMEMBER WHERE.... SHE'S VERY FAMILIAR.... OH, HECK! I JUST CAN'T PLACE HER....WONDER WHAT SHE'S DOING HERE!

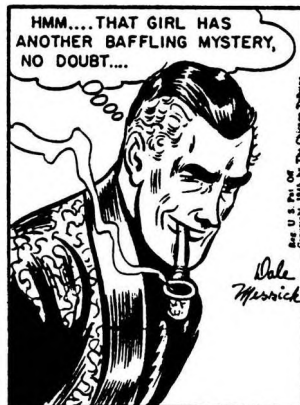
I'M GOING TO SEE IF I CAN FOOL HER INTO THINKING I'M MISS STANKIE. FIRST, I'LL PULL MY HAIR DOWN OVER MY FACE, AND THEN PUT ON ONE OF HER NEGLIGÉES.

HELLO!

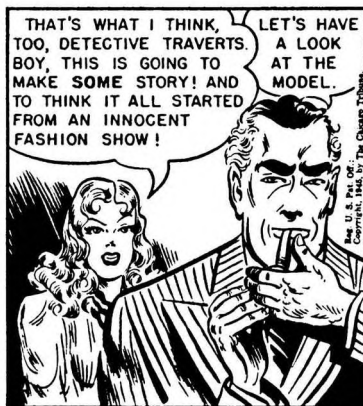
NO!
NO!

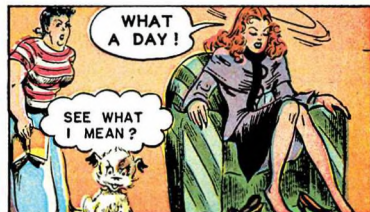
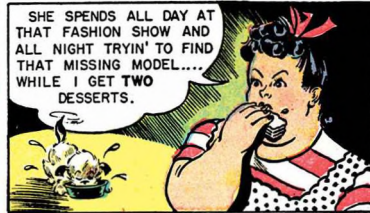
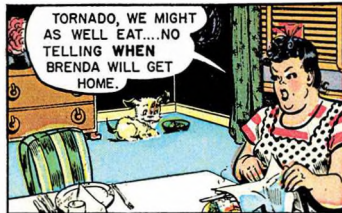
SHE'S FAINTED!

PLOP





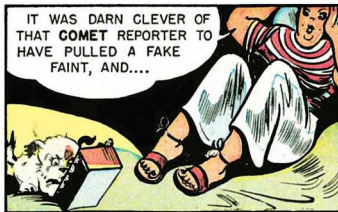
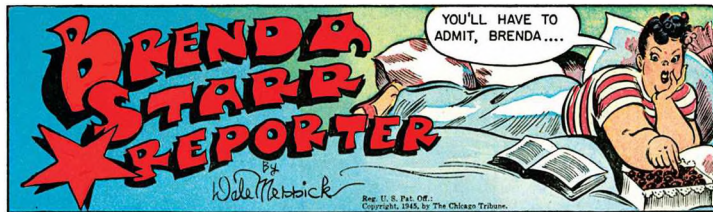








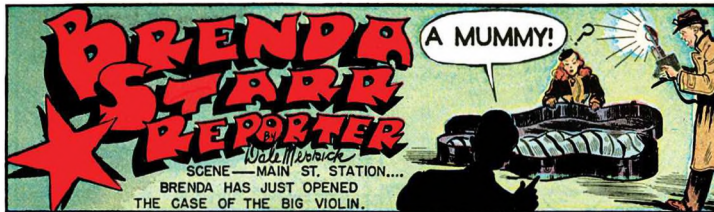




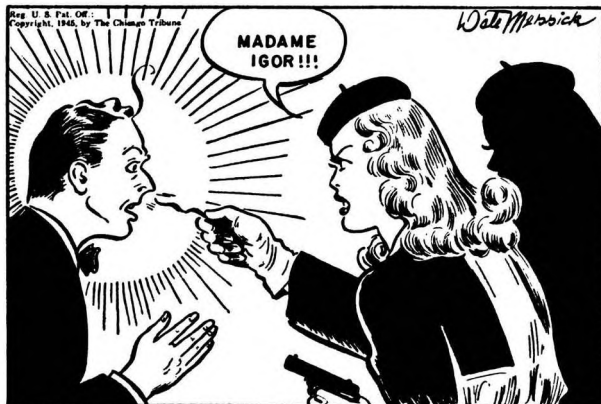














SCENE: IN THE CITY
ROOM OF THE FLASH.

HEY, THE INTERNATIONAL FASHION SHOWROOMS ARE ON FIRE!

GOOD!... THAT'S WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS,... BIGGER AND BETTER FASHION SHOW FIRES!

BUT THAT'S WHERE
BRENDA WENT!

WHAT?

GOOD
GOSH!

BETWEEN THIS FIRE AND.... AND THAT MANIAC, I HAVEN'T A CHANCE!

A comic book panel showing a woman in a red headscarf shouting "GET BACK!" at a man in a fireman's hat. Other people are visible in the background.

OH, TOM, WE GOTTA SAVE BRENDA!

SUDDENLY, SILHOUETTED AGAINST A FLAMING WINDOW....

LOOK!









WASNT IT
THRILLING...

...THE WAY BRENDAS
WAS RESCUED FROM
THAT BURNING BUILDING
BY THAT HANDSOME
STRANGER?

THEY SAY HE
SENT HER
BLACK ORCHIDS

GEE, I'VE NEVER
EVEN SEEN
ONE!

SOME DAY I'M GOING
TO BE A REPORTER LIKE
MISS STARR.



I WOULD NOT...WHY
I'M EVEN GLAD THAT
FIENDISH MADAME
IGOR PERISHED
IN THE FIRE.
SO THERE!

...BUT I'M SORRY SHE
HAD TO BURN UP
ALL THOSE BEAUTIFUL
CLOTHES, TOO.

...THAT WAS BECAUSE
SHE NEVER DESIGNED
ANY OF THEM HERSELF.
SHE STOLE THEM FROM
MISS STANKIE!

WHAT! HOW
MARVELOUS!

GIRLS, DON'T
YOU SEE? THAT'S
WHY MADAME IGOR
KILLED HER MODEL!

WHY DOESN'T SOMEONE
PUT HER WISE? THE
STANKIE CASE HAS BEEN
PAST HISTORY FOR
HOURS.



LET ME
FEEL IT!

DID THE MYSTERY
MAN GIVE THEM
TO YOU?

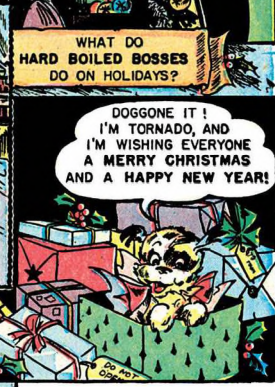
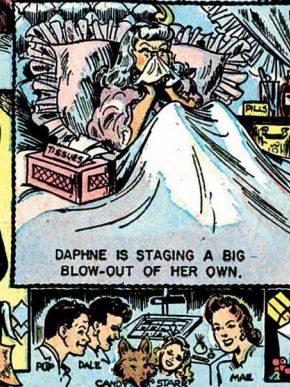
GEE, SUCH
A DIFFERENT
ODOR!
IT
MAKES ME
KINDA
DIZZY!



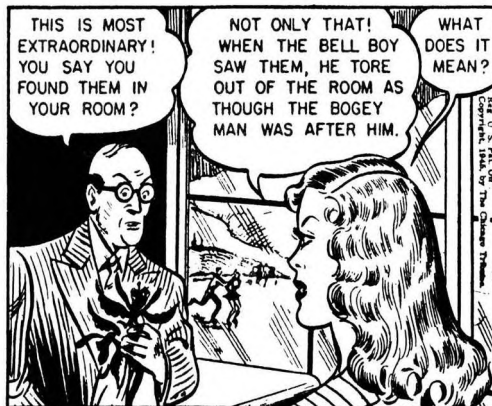


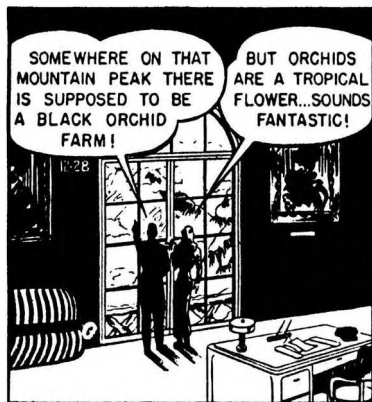


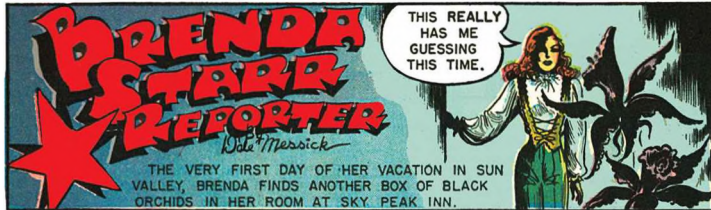


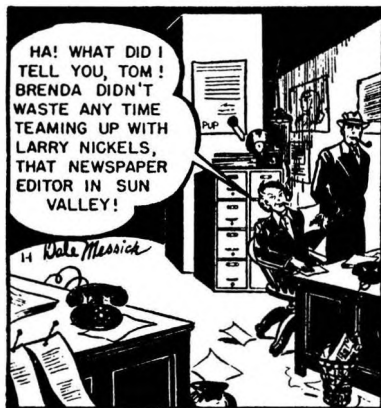


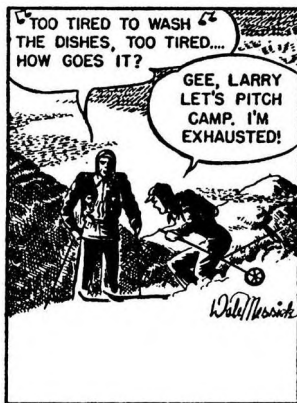




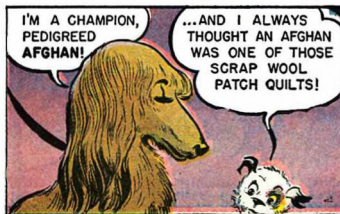
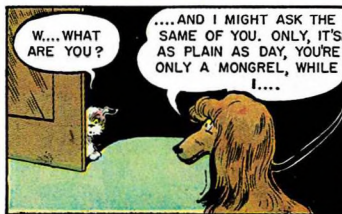
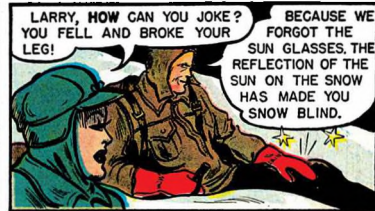


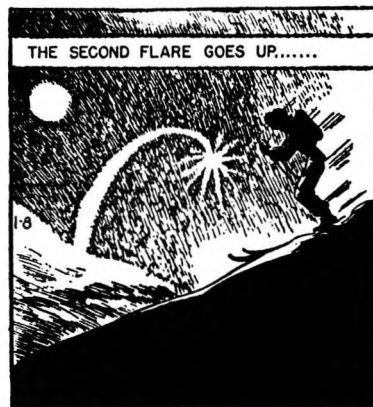
















BRENDA STARR REPORTER

Walt Messick

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WHILE BRENDA AND AN OLD BEAU ARE STRANDED HALF WAY UP THE FORBIDDEN MOUNTAIN IN SUN VALLEY, LET'S LOOK IN ON THE MAN SHE LEFT BEHIND....

ANYTHING I CAN DO TO FILL IN THE GAP UNTIL BRENDA GETS BACK?

IS IT THAT OBVIOUS?

THE BEST WAY TO FORGET A WOMAN IS IN THE ARMS OF ANOTHER.

YOU'RE A FRESH KID. HOW OLD ARE YOU, SLIM?

18, BY THE CALENDAR.

....BUT YOU'VE BEEN AROUND....OK. LET'S PUT ON THE FEED BAG.

GOOD LORD, WOMAN, DO YOU ALWAYS EAT LIKE THIS?

WHEN I GET THE CHANCE.

LET'S DANCE!

....AND, AS TOM HOLDS THE TALL, SLIM GIRL IN HIS ARMS, HE DOES FORGET BRENDA....

SAY, MOUSE OF THE HOUSE, WHO'S THAT DRAPED SHAPE HOOFIN' WITH TAYLOR?

THAT'S SLIM NOLAN!

WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA CHEATIN' ON BRENDA?

TOM MUST BE NUTS PLAYIN' AROUND WITH THAT DAME!







BRENDA STARR REPORTER

Dale Messick

EVERY GUEST AT SKY-PEAK INN THEORIZES ON THE FATE OF BRENDA AND LARRY NICKELS, WHO HAVE GONE IN SEARCH OF THE BLACK ORCHID FARM

TOO BAD! SHE WAS A SWELL GIRL.

ALL THIS ISN'T GOING TO HELP THE ATMOSPHERE AROUND HERE. PEOPLE ARE LEAVING!

AFRAID THEY WILL FIND BLACK ORCHIDS IN THEIR ROOMS LIKE MISS STARR DID!

IT'S JUST TOO, TOO SPOOKY!

WHILE IN THE CITY ROOM OF THE FLASH....

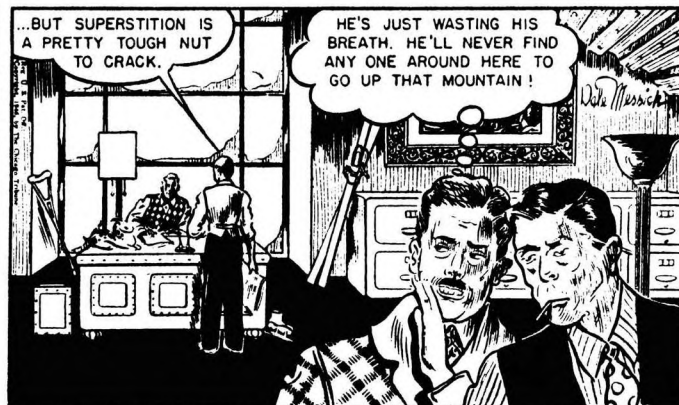
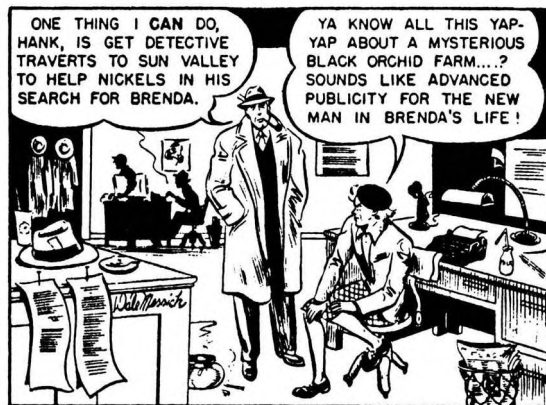
I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE BRENDA'S REALLY LOST! SHE'S COME OUT OF SO MANY CLOSE CALLS.

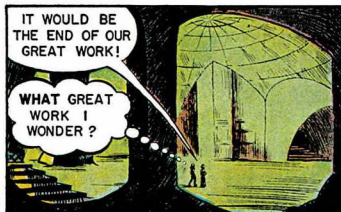
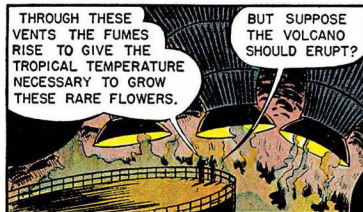
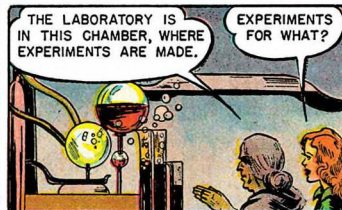
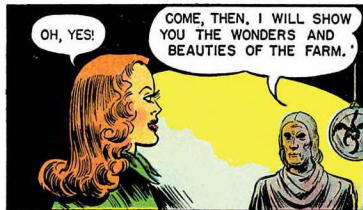
SURE, SHE'LL TURN UP. JUST WAIT AND SEE!

















BRENDA STARR REPORTER

Bob Messick

YOU POOR CHILD, TELL ME....

IT WAS....

WHILE ON A TOUR OF BLACK ORCHID FARM, BRENDA DISCOVERS CRYSTAL DISH, A 14 YEAR OLD GIRL WHO HAS JUST BEEN UNMERCIFULLY BEATEN BY.... ???

NO, CRYSTAL....

WE MUST REMAIN A MYSTERY TO BRENDA STARR.... AND THE WORLD.

I'M TAKING YOU BACK TO SKY-PEAK INN AND CRYSTAL IS GOING WITH YOU.

I WANT YOU TO TAKE HER HOME WITH YOU AND TEACH HER YOUR WAY OF LIFE.

BUT.... I....

PLEASE SAY YOU WILL TAKE ME.... PLEASE GIVE ME A CHANCE TO LIVE LIKE OTHER GIRLS!

.... I HAVE NEVER BEEN AWAY FROM BLACK ORCHID FARM!

HERE IS GOLD ENOUGH FOR ANY ADDED EXPENSE.... A LARGER APARTMENT, PERHAPS... WHATEVER YOU WILL NEED.

Eng. U. S. Pat. Off. Copyright, 1964, by The Chicago Tribune

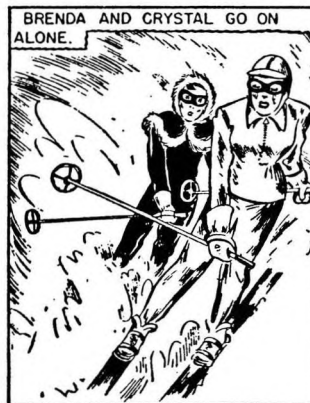
IN ALL MY LIFE I HAVE NEVER SEEN A TREE, OR GRASS... ONLY ICE AND SNOW.

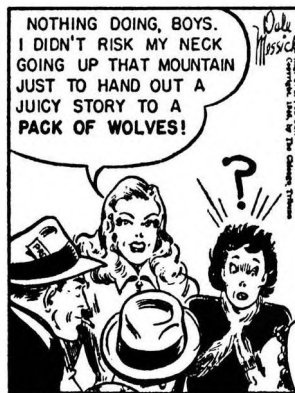
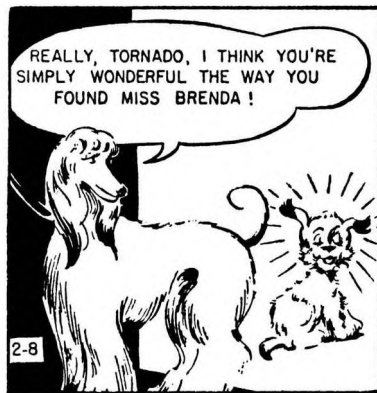
TAKE ME AWAY FROM HERE, PLEASE!

WELL, ON ONE CONDITION....

TELL ME WHO YOU ARE!







BRENDA STARR REPORTER

Walt Messick
BRENDA IS BACK AT SKY-PEAK
INN WITH CRYSTAL DISH.

....AND I STILL
DON'T KNOW WHO
THE MYSTERY
MAN IS!

I WON'T KNOW UNTIL
I OPEN THIS SMALL
PACKAGE HE GAVE ME.

WHILE CRYSTAL IS
ASLEEP, I'M GOING
TO DO JUST THAT!

NO! NO! YOU GAVE
HIM YOUR WORD YOU
WOULD ONLY OPEN
IT UNDER ONE
CONDITION!

BUT WHEN
AM I TO
KNOW THAT
CONDITION?

YOU WILL
KNOW, AND,
UNTIL THAT
TIME....

I'VE GOT YOU
ON MY HANDS....
A STRANGE,
MYSTERIOUS
CHILD.

OH! CRYSTAL, I'M
SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN
THAT THE WAY IT
SOUNDED. IT....IT'S
JUST THAT I WANT
TO KNOW WHO HE
IS!

IT'S PRETTY
TERRIBLE TO BE
IN LOVE WITH A
MAN WHOSE NAME
YOU DON'T EVEN
KNOW!

OH! MY DEAREST
BRENDA, HE LOVES
YOU, TOO.... SO DO
I.... BUT, HE CAN
NEVER....

MARRY YOU.
NEVER!

STARR
FEB
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STARR & PAGE
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